

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-84 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. - 76. (cancelled)

77. (currently amended) A method of producing an L-amino acid comprising
A) cultivating in a culture medium a bacterium transformed with a DNA that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4,
B) removing solids including cells from the medium; and
C) purifying said L-amino acid from the medium obtained in step B),
wherein said L-amino acid is present in the medium obtained from step B) in a larger amount than that produced if the bacterium of step A) was not transformed with said DNA.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein
said DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the bacterium is further transformed with a second DNA that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said second DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 80, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.